

March 3, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Please pass Bill #5283 providing funding equality between ASTE and other choice school options in the state of Connecticut.

I grew up on an apple orchard in CT, my mother grew up on a turkey farm in PA, my daughter is now a junior in the ASTE program at Rockville High School in Vernon CT. We are fortunate to live in town which allows my daughter easy access to the ASTE program. Bill #5283 would allow easier participation from students who do not live in town, which would increase enrollment and further the ASTE experience for all.

The courses offered are varied and incredible. My daughter has participated in competitions at UCONN with other state ASTE programs. As a parent, I love to see her excitement in learning through the courses offered at her school. She remains a high honor student, has excelled in an independent study greenhouse course, taken ECE courses (UCONN), received a floral design certification and enjoys the daily interaction with the school animals. She plans to pursue a degree in Botany following her HS graduation.

It would be great to have these opportunities more readily available to all CT school age children. Everyone deserves this opportunity.

Pass Bill #5283. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Hollworth

Vernon CT